

AUTHORIZING THE ENLARGEMENT OF THE FEDERAL
VETERANS' HOSPITAL AT MUSKOGEE, OKLA.

FEBRUARY 26, 1925.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the
state of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. HAYDEN, from the Committee on World War Veterans' Legisla-
tion, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. J. Res. 364]

The Committee on World War Veterans' Legislation, to whom
was referred (H. J. Res. 364) authorizing the enlargement of the
Federal veterans' hospital at Muskogee, Okla., by the purchase of
an adjoining city hospital and authorizing the appropriation of
\$150,000 for that purpose, having considered the same, report thereon
with amendment and as so amended recommend that it do pass.

Amend the joint resolution as follows:

Strike out the preamble.

Amend on line 3, page 2, by striking out the word "said" and
inserting in lieu thereof the word "the" and by inserting after the
word "hospital" the words "at Muskogee, Oklahoma."

The joint resolution, as amended, reads as follows:

[H. J. Res. 364, Sixty-eighth Congress, second session]

JOINT RESOLUTION Authorizing the enlargement of the Federal veterans' hospital at Muskogee,
Oklahoma, by the purchase of an adjoining city hospital and authorizing the appropriation of \$150,000
for that purpose

Whereas the Veterans' Bureau has lately acquired from the State of Oklahoma
title to the veterans' hospital located at Muskogee, Oklahoma; and

Whereas the city of Muskogee is the owner of a small hospital on a lot im-
mediately adjoining that of the national hospital site, similar in construction and
architecture to that of the Federal hospital and fitting into the scheme of the
Government to enlarge and improve said hospital and necessary to its enlarge-
ment and improvement; and

Whereas the city of Muskogee, Oklahoma, has graciously offered to sell said
hospital to the Government for the sum of \$150,000, being considerably less than
the cost of its construction, in order and for the purpose of carrying out the scheme
of the Veterans' Bureau in connection with said hospital; and

Whereas said additional facilities afforded by the said hospital are now needed
and in the immediate future will be needed in the proper care of veterans assigned
to said Federal hospital: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the purchase of said city hospital by the Director of the Veterans' Bureau at a sum of not exceeding \$150,000, and the appropriation of \$150,000 for that purpose is hereby authorized; the price to be paid therefor to be agreed upon by and between said Director of the Veterans' Bureau and the city of Muskogee.

The joint resolution was referred to the Director of the United States Veterans' Bureau, and the following letter is hereby incorporated as a part of this report:

FEBRUARY 25, 1925.

Hon. ROYAL C. JOHNSON,
Chairman Committee on World War Veterans' Legislation,
House of Representatives.

MY DEAR MR. JOHNSON: Reference is made to your letter of February 21, 1925, requesting a report on House Joint Resolution 364, authorizing the enlargement of the Federal veterans' hospital at Muskogee, Okla., by the purchase of an adjoining city hospital and authorizing the appropriation of \$150,000 for that purpose, introduced by Mr. Hastings on February 19, 1925.

As you are aware there is now pending in the House of Representatives H. R. 11633, a bill to authorize an appropriation to provide additional hospital and out-patient dispensary facilities for persons entitled to hospitalization under the World War veterans' act, 1924.

This bill authorizes an appropriation of \$10,000,000 to carry out the hospital program of this bureau. That program does not contemplate the purchase of the hospital owned by the city of Muskogee as proposed in House Joint Resolution 364, but if the bill passes in its present form it will be necessary to revise the bureau's hospital program for the reason that it was estimated that an appropriation of \$14,000,000 would be required to complete the program, which estimate was cut by the committee to \$10,000,000. It would therefore be possible, should the bill pass, to include the purchase of this hospital should it prove to be desirable and the purchase be approved by the Federal Board for Hospitalization and the President.

The information as to this particular hospital before me at the present time is too meager for me to undertake to express a conclusive opinion, and in any event I would not feel at liberty to do so until the project had been acted upon by the Federal Board for Hospitalization and the President. I feel, however, that I may properly say that while at present it appears the Veterans' Bureau Hospital at Muskogee is being operated over capacity with 391 patients, there are among that number 35 whose claims have been disallowed and 75 patients coming under the classification of section 202, paragraph 10, World War veterans' act, 1924, which number will doubtless be reduced shortly.

It is indicated that it may be advisable to provide for the care of tuberculosis cases in a tuberculosis hospital located in the State of Oklahoma, and the bureau has under consideration at this time the leasing and operating of the State Sanatorium for Tuberculosis at Sulphur, Okla. The State legislature has offered to complete this institution to 200 beds' capacity, and if this lease is consummated, it would seem that the hospital at Sulphur Springs, with the United States Veterans' Bureau hospital at Muskogee, should provide ample facilities for the needs of the bureau beneficiaries in Oklahoma.

However, as I have previously stated, it would be impossible to pass final judgment upon the situation in the absence of more detailed information and consideration by the Federal Board for Hospitalization and the President.

Very truly yours,

FRANK T. HINES, Director.